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1. THE DISCUSSIONS WITH GENERAL THIEU AND GENERAL KY WERE REPORTED IN THE AMBASSADOR'S WEEKLY MESSAGE TO THE PRESIDENT. FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF THOSE DISCUSSIONS:

A. IMPROVING THE PERFORMANCE OF ARVN/RF/PF. IN TALKS WITH GENERAL KY AND GENERAL THIEU, SECRETARY MCNAMARA RAISED THE PROBLEMS OF IMPROVING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE VIETNAMESE ARMED FORCES. THEY RECOGNIZE THE NEED FOR IMPROVEMENT. KY SAID THA THE RF/PF ESPECIALLY REQUIRE BETTER LEADERSHIP AND BETTER LIVING CONDITIONS IN ORDER TO IMPROVE THEIR MORALE. HE NOTED THAT THE MILITARY AND THE

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CIVILIAN SERVICES HAVE BEEN THE CHIEF SUFFERERS FROM INFLATION WHILE LABORERS AND FARMERS HAVE BENEFITED FROM FULL EMPLOYMENT, INCREASED PAY AND PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCTS. SECRETARY MCNAMARA STRESSED THE NEED FOR MAXIMUM USE OF MANPOWER, AND MADE IT CLEAR THAT MORE EFFECTIVE UTILIZATION OF MANPOWER IS A PREREQUISITE TO THE DEPLOYMENT OF GREATER U.S. OR FREE WORLD FORCES.

B. BOTH GENERAL KY AND GENERAL CAO VAN VIEN ADVOCATED AN INCREASE IN FORCE LEVELS FOR THE VIETNAMESE ARMED FORCES TO RAISE THE TOTAL BY 65,000. THEY RECOMMENDED LOWERING THE DRAFT AGE TO 18 AND EXTENDING THE LENGTH OF SERVICE. FORTY THOUSAND MEN WHO WOULD OTHERWISE HAVE BEEN DISCHARGED ARE STILL IN SERVICE BECAUSE OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE DECISION TO HALT DISCHARGES DURING THE ELECTORAL PROCESS. IT WILL BE SAID THAT THIS IS BEING DONE TO PROVIDE PROTECTION DURING THE ELECTIONS.

C. PACIFICATION. KY SAID THAT PACIFICATION REALLY MEANS NATION BUILDING. THIS IS A BIG JOB, ESPECIALLY IN WAR TIME. HE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THE VIETNAMESE PART IN PACIFICATION

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WOULD BECOME INCREASINGLY EFFECTIVE, AND HE NOTED THE GREAT IMPORTANCE OF THE PROVINCE CHIEF IN PACIFICATION. KY IS NOT SATISFIED WITH THE PRESENT QUALITY OF PROVINCE CHIEFS, AND HE IS PLANNING TO SET UP A SPECIAL TRAINING CENTER FOR THEM. HE ALSO PLANS TO REPLACE A NUMBER OF PROVINCE CHIEFS WHOSE PERFORMANCE IS UNSATISFACTORY. KY WANTS TO GIVE THE PROVINCE CHIEFS CONTROL OF THE ARVN/RF/PF FORCES WHICH ARE ASSIGNED TO PACIFICATION. HE ALSO WANTS TO GIVE THE PROVINCE CHIEFS DIRECT ACCESS TO THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT INSTEAD OF THEIR HAVING TO GO THROUGH DIVISION AND CORPS COMMANDERS AS AT PRESENT. GENERAL THIEU, HOWEVER, HAS A DIFFERENT VIEW. HE THINKS THAT THE DIVISION COMMANDER SHOULD HAVE MORE RESPONSIBILITY FOR PACIFICATION. WE ARE INCLINED TO AGREE WITH KY ON THIS POINT.

D. KY AND VIEN BELIEVE THAT THE COMMUNISTS MAY TRY FOR ONE BIG VICTORY BEFORE ELECTIONS, THAT THEY WILL INCREASE ATTACKS ON THE PACIFICATION PROGRAM, AND ATTEMPT TO DISRUPT THE ELECTIONS AT THE VILLAGE AND HAMLET LEVEL. THEY BELIEVE THAT THE FIRST THREE MONTHS OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT WILL BE

A TESTING TIME FOR THE NEW REGIME. DURING THIS PERIOD THE VC/NVA WILL CONTINUE AN INTENSIFIED SERIES OF ATTACKS BUT IT WILL ALSO BE AN OPPORTUNITY TO STRENGTHEN THE GOVERNMENT IN SOUTH VIET-NAM BY BROADENING ITS BASE, AND AN OPPORTUNITY TO CONVINCE THE VC THAT A MILITARY VICTORY IS IMPOSSIBLE.

E. CLEAN ELECTIONS. SECRETARY MCNAMARA EXPRESSED VERY CLEARLY AND EXPLICITLY THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO THE HOLDING OF FAIR AND HONEST ELECTIONS. HE EMPHASIZED STRONGLY THE FACT THAT UNLESS THE ELECTIONS WERE CLEAN, PUBLIC OPINION IN THE U.S. AND ABROAD WILL BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED AND THIS IN TURN WOULD AFFECT THE SUPPORT WHICH THE VIETNAMESE WERE RECEIVING FROM THE U.S. AND OTHER FREE WORLD COUNTRIES. THE AMBASSADOR HAS ALSO REPEATEDLY STRESSED THESE POINTS TO THIEU AND KY.

F. NEGOTIATIONS. ON THE QUESTION OF NEGOTIATIONS, KY EMPHASIZED THE FACT THAT THE GVN WAS WILLING TO TALK TO HANOI AT ANY TIME BUT THAT AN ELECTED GOVERNMENT WOULD BE IN A STRONGER POSITION TO DO SO. THIS SHOULD BE DONE AT THE "PROPER TIME"

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WITH ADEQUATE PREPARATION. KY MENTIONED THE FACT THAT TWO YEARS AGO THE GVN WAS "TALKING ABOUT GOING NORTH", A YEAR AGO ABOUT TWO VIET-NAMS, AND NOW COULD TALK ABOUT HOW TO END THE WAR. THIEU ASKED WHETHER SECRETARY MCNAMARA HAD INFORMATION AS TO WHETHER THE MAIN MILITARY TARGETS IN NORTH VIET-NAM HAD BEEN DESTROYED AND IF THEREFORE A CESSATION OF BOMBING WOULD BE AN INDUCEMENT TO NEGOTIATIONS. SECRETARY POINTED OUT THAT WE DID NOT YET HAVE ENOUGH INFORMATION ON THIS SCORE AND THAT EXCEPT FOR MANPOWER THE NVN WAR-MAKING POTENTIAL WAS NOT REALLY LOCATED IN NVN, BUT CAME FROM OUTSIDE SOURCES. WE MENTIONED THE FACT THAT ONE THING WE WOULD NOT WANT TO DO IS TO GET INTO KOREAN TYPE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH CONTINUED FOR TWO YEARS DURING WHICH HOSTILITIES ALSO CONTINUED. WE POINTED OUT THAT OUR LOSSES WERE HEAVIER DURING THE NEGOTIATING PERIOD THAN PRECEDING IT.

GP-1. BUNKER
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